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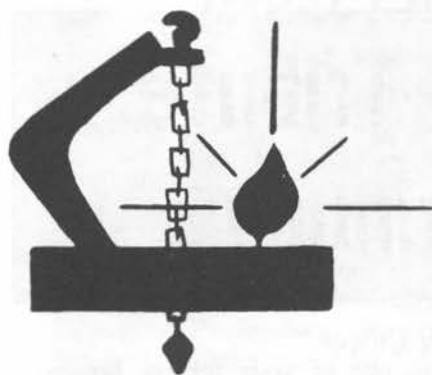
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Eastern Illinois University

SCHOOL OF HOME ECONOMICS

Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XIII

1975-1976

MISS DEVINNEY: A TRIBUTE

by
Debbie Marrs



1975 marks the magic year for Miss Helen Devinney; she is retiring after a 32 year career in home economics at EIU. She has instructed and influenced hundreds of students, especially in the areas of clothing, textiles, household equipment and home furnishings.

Miss Devinney has spent most of her life in the Charleston area, having been born on a farm south of town. As a child she wanted to be a first grade teacher but after she was introduced to home economics in her high school years, she changed her career goal. She earned her B.S. degree in home economics education from Eastern in 1936. She had the unusual experience of attending classes for both high school and college courses in Blair Hall, the present location of the School of Business.

Upon graduation Miss Devinney accepted a teaching position at Ridgeway High School, about 70 miles south of Charleston, where she remained for seven years. During the summer breaks, she attended Teachers College, Columbia University, in New York City and earned her master's degree from there in 1943. It was her aggressive professional attitude and her excellent academic record that caused her to be offered a position on

the staff of her alma mater beginning December, 1943. This invitation, she recalls, is one of the highlights of her long career.

When she returned to campus to teach, she found the home economics department in a new home - on the second floor of what is now the Student Services Building. It was in 1967 that Miss Devinney had the privilege of helping to move the home economics unit into another new location, this time, in the Applied Arts Building.

Besides the changes in location, Miss Devinney has seen a number of other changes materialize. The Department changed status and became a School in 1968, headed by a Dean. She has seen the home economics faculty grow from two teachers, to four teachers, to the present staff of 17. She has seen her students take career positions in teaching and extension work in the earlier days and the present areas of merchandising, family services, dietetics, etc. which were formerly unheard of. The change which impresses her the most is the change in the appearance of the physical features of the department. Before, the department was colorless with beige walls, no pictures, no life. Now, and in the past few years, the department has taken on a warm, glowing appearance with fabric on the walls, brightly colored painted walls, living plants, etc.

Looking into the future, Miss Devinney wants her retirement years to be spent in helping older people, especially those who are lonely. She would like to be able to add a little cheer to their lives. She also plans to spend more time working on her hobbies, which include craft work and her rose garden. Further travel is also in her plans. She would like to go to Europe and other parts of the United States.

Looking back, Miss Devinney says she has really enjoyed teaching at Eastern and has especially enjoyed the students with whom she has come in contact. She feels that home economics is a great area to be in and is glad she has been involved in that area for most of her life.



Dean Swope's Tribute to Miss Devinney

On Sunday evening, November 23, 1975, the faculty sponsored a Retirement Dinner party to honor Helen Devinney. We were privileged to have had 84 guests from miles and miles around. *I would like to share with all of you some of the remarks I made in my tribute to her.*

"My remarks tonight will be directed toward Helen Devinney, the professional home economist, and Helen Devinney, the person. I will begin first with the professional aspects."

"Our guest of honor began her career at Eastern in 1943 - just 8 short years after she graduated from here. In fact, her only other professional experience was gained at a small place down the road where she taught high school for seven years.

It seems significant to me that Miss Devinney earned her MA degree from Columbia University just five years after she got her BS from Eastern. Helen's professionalism is exemplified in the fact that she saw the need for more education at a time in history when lots of women were not seeking advanced degrees. This professionalism is what stands out about the life and work of our devoted colleague.

There is also Helen Devinney, the Person. I am reminded of a story that President-Emeritus Doudna told. He said that he, his wife and his mother were just about to leave their house for the Inaugural Dinner being held at the University when he commented to his mother, "I really want to be a good President of EIU". His mother hesitated for just a minute and then said, "Son, be a GOOD PERSON and you will be a good president." I've thought so much about how profound that statement really was. It has universal application. Certainly it is true that our honored guest is first a GOOD PERSON and then a GOOD PROFESSIONAL."

"Both of these facts are attested to by the large number of letters which she has received. I want to share with you some quotes from them that I feel anyone here could be proud to have said about them:

"We have all come to admire and respect your dedication to sound principles of scholarship, your sensitivity and concern for students and staff, and particularly your standards of professional and personal integrity. The initials EIU stand not only for your alma mater, Eastern Illinois University, but more significantly, they describe your teaching philosophy toward students

- Each Individually Unique."

And then from one of your former bosses - "Looking back upon the years we worked so hard to develop a Department of Home Economics of quality, I remember your dedicated devotion to this project. No assignment was too large or difficult for you - and I never remember that you ever lost your temper even once."

The next one is oh, so typical - it says: "Congratulations on your well deserved retirement. You can be assured that as long as I sew I'll never forget you because every time I get a little sloppy I think, 'Now Miss Devinney wouldn't like that!'"

"Just think," writes one of your closest friends, "No more papers to grade; no more coats to be tailor made; no reports to be heard; no more tests to read, word for word. We are all going to be thinking of you and envying you as you: Garden with your spade, rest in the shade, travel here and abroad, and happily applaud, all the wonderful new activities you will do."

Lastly from my husband Don, "... it is easy to confess in writing what you have heard me admit to our closest friends, and that is my first impression of you as it was formed when I was introduced to the home economics staff in September of 1962, about five months before we moved to town. On the way back to New York, I warned Mary Ruth, "If you ever have trouble with any of the staff members it will be with that Helen Devinney!" How thankful I am that the old saying about first impressions being lasting ones proved to be wrong.

Since Mary Ruth and I will be sharing your retirement years with you, the only other comment that I want to make is that I forsee you continuing to practice the philosophy which you have always endorsed. It has been expressed in these lines by Edwin Markham:

There is a destiny that makes us brothers;
None goes his way alone;
All that we send into the lives of others,
Comes back into our own!"

And now I would like to end our evening with a quote from one of your present students. She said, "*I truly hope your retirement is not an end, but a beginning - a beginning of new, exciting and meaningful experiences. May God be with you in all you choose to do.*"

IMPACT Project

This semester we have two home economics students who are participating in the IMPACT program. They are *Rita Maske* and *Wendy Schauer*, both recent EIU graduates. IMPACT (Instructional Management Program to Advance Curriculum Training) is a relatively new program which is being conducted by EIU in cooperation with the Illinois Division of Vocational and Technical Education. It is federally funded through the Education Professions Development Act (EPDA). Students participating in IMPACT meet for two hours each day with their instructor, Dr. George Cooper, project director. During this time they discuss vocational centers and/or conferences that they have attended. Next spring the students will participate in an internship pertaining to vocational, occupational, or career education. The participants, who come from such diverse academic backgrounds as speech, history, business, and home economics, will be prepared to be employed as: vocational and career education curriculum directors, vocational and career education administrators, vocational and career education project directors, vocational and career education material developers, classroom teachers, and/or guidance counselors and directors of guidance services. Both Rita and Wendy enjoy working with the IMPACT program as they pursue their Master's degrees in Home Economics.

Kappa Omicron Phi

Kappa Omicron Phi, Alpha Theta chapter has thirty-eight members and two advisors, Miss Helen Devinney and Mrs. Jayne Ozier. KOØ is an active group and one with many goals and objectives. Several activities for KOØ members this year include a joint picnic with SHEA, the annual fabric sale sponsored by KOØ and SHEA, a joint Christmas party with SHEA, a Founders Day Ceremony, initiation of pledges, a field trip, a community project for the Crossnore School in North Carolina, and the Annual Spring Banquet held jointly with SHEA.

SHEA

The student Home Economics Association at Eastern got off to a wonderful year with 190 people coming to the KOØ-SHEA picnic. Although the membership drive is still in progress, we have so far a total of 170 SHEA members. Many activities have been planned for the members for the rest of the year. They include monthly meetings of the three professional groups (i.e. family services, home economics education, and home economists in business), the annual KOØ-SHEA Fabric Sale, a joint Christmas party, as well as the KOØ-SHEA Annual Spring Banquet.

BITS-N-PIECES

- Dean Swope is currently serving on the AHEA nominating committee.

- Two faculty members, Mrs. Edith Hedges and Mrs. Jacquelyn McCullough, are on leave in pursuit of their doctorates. Mrs. Hedges is studying at the University of Illinois in home economics education with emphasis in nutrition education; Mrs. McCullough is studying clothing and textiles at Purdue University.

- A new course entitled Family Life and Sex Education will be offered for the first time during the Fall Semester, 1976.

- New faculty member, Renee Schwaller, is serving as chairperson for the Coles County Extension Program Planning Council.

- We are submitting for possible funding a proposal that would provide ways in which University faculty and students can have closer cooperation with community agencies through a *Human Services Center*. We are recommending that the agencies provide opportunities for our students to apply the knowledge and skills learned in their courses to the real-life problems of those persons who use the services of the agencies. Students in home economics, psychology, and sociology would be involved.

- An opportunity to cooperate in the Planning and implementing of an ENERGY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM at EIU has been offered us. Mrs. Gayle Strader has been appointed as the School of Home Economics representative on the Advisory Board of the School of Business to help with this program.

- We have a 17% increase in students taking home economics courses this fall over one year ago. The University has an 11.4% increase; we are happy to be growing at this healthy rate.

- The School of Home Economics has taken leadership in involving the University in designing a *M.S. degree in Gerontology*. For more than a year we have been writing courses and making plans for the administration of this interdisciplinary program. At the present time the curriculum requires a core of courses from home economics, psychology, sociology, and education. Hopefully by spring our proposal will be ready to be submitted to the appropriate campus councils and on to the Board of Governors and the Board of Higher Education.

- We are on the verge of a \$425,000 grant. That's all we can tell you now for it is not safe to count your chicks before they are hatched.



Top Row:

Leila Blackstone
Becky Wright
Penny Thande
Nancy Roman

Bottom Row:

Jo Ann Shavey
Kathy Lister
Jackie Schaefer
Donna Mrozek

Graduate Students

A familiar face to many of us in the School of Home Economics is that of *Becky Wright*. Becky, who is now a graduate assistant in the areas of child development and family life, recently received her B.S. in home economics at Eastern. She decided to continue with her education while the opportunity afforded itself and just because she *likes* school. As a graduate assistant, Becky works in the Child Development Lab and also as an assistant to Mr. Bob Butts. A position in social work, especially with Children and Family Services, is what Becky hopes her M.S. degree will lead to. If not that, then some type of work in a day care center. Becky and her husband, Bob, live in Mattoon.

Nancy Roman is this year's graduate-student advisor for the Student Home Economics Association. Her main duties are to help plan meetings and activities for the three SHEA groups. Nancy, who graduated from Eastern in 1962 with a B.S. in Social Sciences, is also working toward her M.S. in Home Economics with a concentration in Child Development and Family Life. She is especially interested in family life from an applied standpoint rather than a theoretical view. Since graduation, Nancy has been involved in a diverse number of fields. She has served as women's editor for the Mattoon Journal Gazette, as public relations director for Rotary International, as editorial secretary and assistant for Scott, Foresman, and Co. textbook publishers, as administrative assistant in the Behavior Genetics Lab at the University of Chicago, as well as attending DePaul University in Chicago. In the future, Nancy would like to become involved in some

type of human services work, and then possibly later obtain her Ph.D. Nancy has one daughter, Martha, who is four years old.

Kathy Lister is a Western Illinois University graduate now working on her M.S. in Home Economics Education. Before coming to Eastern, she had taught high school home economics at Charleston High School for three years. Some things that Kathy is doing as a graduate assistant include writing weekly letters to students involved in the professional semester, revising the Capsule Program in the Home Economics Resource Center (see related article on page 5), and assisting Dr. Melloh and Mrs. Owens in various capacities. Kathy's husband, Charles, recently graduated from Eastern with a degree in psychology and is currently employed with the State of Illinois as a personnel analyst. Serving as staff assistant, Kathy worked at the Charleston Community Day Care Center this past summer. In the future, Kathy would like to return to teaching, do more graduate work, and write textbooks. Her hobbies include gardening, reading, and sewing.

Jackie Schaefer is also a recent graduate of Eastern, receiving her B.S. in Home Economics in 1975. Jackie attained her B.S. by taking a few courses at a time over a six year period. At the present time, she is working on her M.S. in Home Economics with a concentration in Child Development and serving as a graduate assistant in the Infant Development Lab. Jackie is married and has five children: Curt, 17; Rodney, 15; Jeanna, 11; and Angela, 8. Looking into the future, Jackie feels that she would like to teach. Her hobbies include jogging, sewing, tennis, and bridge.

(continued on back)

New Staff Members

We have a new staff member - *Renee Schwaller* - who is filling in this fall for Mrs. Jacqueline McCullough, who is doing graduate work at Purdue University, and also for Mrs. Nancy Keppler, who is now teaching part-time. Renee is teaching both Family Housing and Demonstration Techniques. She is a 1970 graduate of Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. Her husband, Anthony, is also an instructor at Eastern - in the Industrial Technology department. Before becoming an instructor at EIU, Renee worked as a home economist with the Michigan Consumer Gas Company; as assistant dietician at Charleston Community Hospital; and as a home economist for Central Illinois Power Service. At CIPS, Renee worked with a wide range of age groups - from pre-school age to adults, but she found the college-age groups to be the most challenging and stimulating to her.

Besides teaching, Mrs. Schwaller enjoys sewing, crewel, reading, and playing with her two children, Matthew, 2½ years and Joshua, four months.

We are looking forward to having a new staff member in January, 1976. *Dr. Peggy McGeever* comes to us from San Luis Obispo, California where she was professor of Family Studies at California Polytechnic State University. She is a graduate of Columbia University and has taught family life courses at a number of universities. She has a 12 year old daughter, Kelly, who is an avid lover of horses. Her own horse was moved to Charleston under very special arrangements. We hope Kelly and her mother will like the wide-open spaces of Illinois.



Dr. Peggy McGeever

Graduate Summer School Offerings

The School of Home Economics will offer the following graduate level courses for Summer, 1976:

- HEC 4845 - Family in Crisis - 3 s.h.
11:10-12:00 Daily (June 9 - Aug. 4)
- HEC 4846 - Aging and the Family - 3 s.h.
7:30-8:30 Daily (June 9 - Aug. 4)
- HEC 4998 - Individualized Learning
Projects in Home Economics
1 s.h. 10-12:30 - June 7-11
2 s.h. 10-12:30 - June 7-18
3 s.h. 10-12:30 - June 7-25
Room: 110-AAE
All Workshops will meet daily.
- HEC 4998 - Nutrition and Young Children
1 s.h. - June 16, 17, 18
1:00-5:00 p.m.
- HEC 5080 - Interpretation of New
Vocational Act - 1 s.h.
1:00-3:30 p.m. (June 9-16)
- HEC 5080 - Writing Proposals for
Vocation of Education Act
1 s.h. 1:00-3:30 p.m.
June 16-23
- HEC 5080 - Implementation and
Evaluation 1 s.h.
1:00-3:30 p.m.
June 23-30
- HEC 5080 - Future of Occupational
Education 1 s.h.
1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
June 30 - July 7

New Resource Center in Home Economics Education

Room 109-D, Applied Arts Building has taken on a new importance for Home Economics Education majors at Eastern. Through a new grant received early Spring, 1975, Dr. Evelyn Melloh and Mrs. Barbara Owens have established a Resource Center.

The purpose of the Center is to provide up-to-date, relevant materials in the area of occupational resource materials for students and teachers in the department who are interested in the area of education. The Center offers tables, chairs, and a quiet environment for study; it houses audio-visual materials, textbooks, learning packets, periodicals, the Eleanor Cochrane learning capsule program and many other valuable resources. Currently catalogued materials number over 1000 books and textbooks. Additional materials are constantly being added by purchases, donations, and student development of new materials. The Resource Center is a recent valuable addition to the learning environment and promises to become an even more indispensable asset in the future.

AHEA Convention

The American Home Economics Association will hold its annual meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota from June 21 to June 25, 1976. The SHEA is planning to take as many carloads of students as possible from Eastern to the convention. If students can afford both the time and the money to increase their professional growth, certainly you alums can too! Come On! Let's all go to Minneapolis and show a strong representation from Eastern, both alumni and students. Hope to see you there!

... Graduate Students

Donna Mrozek is a graduate of the University of Michigan with a B.A. in History. She became interested in home economics, specifically hospital dietetics, after working in a hospital in Detroit. At the hospital, she served as vocational instructor, educational planner for the professional staff, and as a paramedic. This led her to decide to work on her M.S. in foods and nutrition at EIU. As a graduate assistant, Donna writes and broadcasts the radio program *Nutrition Notebook*, heard twice a week on WEIC. Donna's future goals are undefined so far. Being new in the field, she finds that she learns of new and unopened doors almost daily. The areas of community nutrition and government work interest her most. Donna lives in Mattoon with her husband, Mark, who is the Associate Director of the Mattoon Memorial Hospital.

Leila Blackstone is formerly from Beirut, Lebanon and is currently an M.S. candidate in the area of CD/FL at Eastern. Leila graduated from the Beirut College for Women with a B.S. in Social Work in 1960. She left her native country and came to the United States when she married her husband, Richard, who is an Assistant Professor in the Philosophy Department at Eastern. The Blackstones have three children. Leila's main interest is in gerontology. She would like to develop high school courses in aging and to develop county level activities for senior citizens. Leila's hobbies include traveling, going on archeological digs, sewing, speaking to groups about Lebanon, and cooking gourmet foods.

Penny Thande comes to us all the way from Kenya, Africa. Penny is a graduate student working toward her Master's degree in home economics education with emphasis in child development. Before coming to Eastern, she attended the college of Notre Dame in Belmont, California where she was graduated in December, 1974 with a B.A. in Home Economics. Penny feels a strong desire to go back home to Kenya to

teach at the University of Nairobi and eventually become involved with the young children there, implementing and improving day care programs. She feels her country needs more qualified teachers of the young. Among other things, Penny especially likes to travel, sew, and cook - both American food and her native foods. Her travels have included England, Scotland, and parts of the United States.

Jo Ann Shavey is a native of Michigan. She is currently working on her M.S. in home economics with a concentration in foods and nutrition. Before coming to Eastern, Jo Ann attended Central Michigan University where she was graduated in May, 1975. She became interested in coming to Eastern to work on her Master's degree when she met and talked to Evy Pinther at WIIM conference (Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan) this past January. Along with her interest in home economics, Jo Ann is also concerned with legislation and is currently taking an independent study course in political science. She hopes to some day become a lobbyist at either the state or federal level. In conjunction with this, she is making arrangements to do a short internship in Washington, D.C. with Mary Allen Jolley, AHEA Director of Public Affairs. An avid garden enthusiast, Jo Ann is a vegetarian and makes a lot of her own food. Her specialty is yogurt.

Sue Hough is a graduate student working on her M.S. in home economics education. A 1970 graduate of EIU, she returned to school because she "felt the need to improve professionally" and she "wanted to get back into the classroom situation as a student". Between her B.S. and her M.S., Sue has served as a cooperative extension adviser in Lawrence County and a home economics teacher in the Olney schools. She enjoys sewing, knitting, and doing family activities with her husband, James, and her daughter, Lisa, age three.

Dr. Mary Ruth Swope, Dean
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